

June 28, 2004

Laura H. Keller
ExxonMobil Chemical Company
13501 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Ms. Keller:

We have conducted a review of the test plan for neodecanoic acid, 1,2-epoxypropyl ester submitted by ExxonMobil Chemical Company as part of your commitments under the HPV Challenge Program. Our review concluded that an implementation approach that involves a possible rulemaking step (not explicitly stated but implied) is incompatible with maintaining the chemical under a voluntary program such as the HPV Challenge Program. If this is the only option available to you, it effectively removes the chemical from further consideration under the HPV Challenge Program.

I urge ExxonMobil Chemical Company to examine other options and, hopefully, find a way to maintain this chemical under the HPV Challenge Program. If you are successful, we will, at that time, proceed with a further review of the test plan.

EPA will post this letter on the HPV Challenge Web site within the next few days. We ask that ExxonMobil Chemical Company advise the Agency, within 60 days of this posting on the Web site, of any modifications to its submission. Please send any electronic revisions or comments to the following e-mail addresses: oppt.ncic@epa.gov and chem.rtk@epa.gov.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Richard Hefter, Chief of the HPV Chemicals Branch, at 202-564-7649. Submit questions about the HPV Challenge Program through the "Contact Us" link on the HPV Challenge Program Web site pages or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached by e-mail at tsc hotline@epa.gov.

I thank you for your submission and look forward to your continued participation in the HPV Challenge Program.

Sincerely,

-S-

Oscar Hernandez, Director
Risk Assessment Division

Enclosure

cc: W. Penberthy
M. E. Weber